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## CORRESPONDENCE.

## PROFESSOR DE VERE'S 'L'AVARE.'

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES:

SIRS:—In justice to PROFESSOR DE VERE, I wish to state that the limited number of purely philological notes in my new edition of 'L'Avare' (the initial volume of *Classiques Français*) is due to myself, personally. PROF. DE VERE furnished me with the most elaborate notes I have ever seen for any book; but, as my edition was to be published at a very low price and was intended for students of French and not particularly for philological students, I found them so long that, as a matter of prudence, I eliminated nearly every purely philological note, unless it had some particular bearing upon the comprehension of the sentence. I shall not dispute with the learned professor who wrote the critique in your June issue, as to his opinion upon the necessity for students' having such profound and profuse philological notes as he thinks were required (in which opinion I differ materially from him); but I do not think it fair that he should point out only what he thinks are the defects in the annotation, without at the same time crediting the publication with what I do not hesitate to claim for it—that there is no better annotated edition to be had; while in price and appearance it is cheaper and better than any other published here in America.

Respectfully,

W. R. JENKINS.

New York.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES:

SIRS:—PROFESSOR CANFIELD, reviewing Mr. Jenkins' annotated edition of 'L'Avare,' naturally asks, why explain *sont de grandes dupes*? But *s'ajuster à eux* might claim an explanation; and it seems to be just such passages as *autoriser des choses plus étranges* where an explanation is absolutely necessary. As, in Elizabethan English, such words as *envy*, *jealousy*, *success* are the words likely to confuse pupils using the same words in changed meanings, so for pupils reading seventeenth century French and nineteenth century French, is it not wise and charitable to ex-

plain such words in MOLIÈRE as *succès*, *gêne*, *ennui*, *étrange*,—noting how weak has become the meaning of the last three?

Did not *étrange* during the century of Louis XIV. often justify moral indignation, excite emotion in contemplation of the extraordinary, and not intellectual astonishment or curiosity? It amounted often to *outrageous*, *monstrous*.

The passage above illustrates this meaning. And so for instance do, *Suis-je mon père une si étrange personne*?

*Cela est étrange que mes propres enfants me trahissent et deviennent mes ennemis.*

'L'Avare,' i, 5.

*Il pourrait m'obliger à quelque étrange chose.*

'Le Médecin malgré lui,' iii, 3.

and in 'Athalie,' ii, 5:

*De ce refus bizarre où seraient les raisons?*

*Il pourrait me jeter en d'étranges soupçons.*

And compare the often quoted *C'est une étrange entreprise que celle de faire rire les honnêtes gens.*

'La Critique,' 7.

W. F. STOCKLEY.

University of New Brunswick.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES:

SIRS:—Neither of the reviewers of PROF. SCHELE DE VERE'S edition of 'L'Avare' in the MOD. LANG. NOTES for June, mentions two singular errors occurring in the notes to p. 11, l. 17 and p. 25, l. 26, where it is stated that for *plus . . . qu'on ne peut*, etc., *plus . . . qu'on ne puisse*, etc., would now be used. On p. 32, l. 24 and p. 45, l. 13 analogous phrases occur (*plus grands que vous ne pensez—plus loin qu'on ne vous peut dire*), but no mention is made of them in the notes. Of course, the indicative is used now as well as by older writers, in such sentences as: "Vous écrivez mieux que vous ne *parlez*; il est plus riche qu'il ne *l'était*; il est plus grand qu'on ne *peut* croire."

A. LODEMAN.

*Ypsilanti, Mich.*

## BRIEF MENTION.

The 'Traité sur le genre des noms français,' by PAUL LOUIS GUERIN (Boston: Carl Schoenhof), is a classification highly useful for